HAWKEYE AREA COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

THE HOOVER SCOUT TRAIL

Formally “The Hoover Trail”
For Scouts ONLY, not open to the general public.

Located near West Branch, Iowa

No Cost to Hike or Canoe
No Cost to Camp overnight
HERBERT HOOVER
FROM ORPHAN BOY TO PRESIDENT

The Birthplace of the Thirty-first President of the United States, and the first President born West of the Mississippi River, represents a period in the History our our Country, when families of meager means with their early possessions moved westward in covered wagons to establish new homes, churches, schools and community services.

The Boy Scouts of Iowa joined in creating the Hoover Park by erecting a shelter of the use of all who come. Embedded in the huge fireplace of limestone taken from Stone City, Iowa, is a plaque which reads: “This Shelter is dedicated to the Boy Scouts of Iowa in tribute to the life of Herbert Hoover as a reminder that the road of opportunity he traveled is open to all American Youth.”
The humble little two-room cottage in which Herbert Hoover was born and spent his early boyhood still stands on the west branch of the Wapsinonoc Creek. It is hard to believe that a boy born in such humble surroundings and orphaned at the age of 10 would someday become President of the United States.

Herbert Hoover's mother often spoke before the congregation that worshipped in this building. Hoover, as a child, attended meetings here with his parents. In 1946-1946, the meeting house, after being moved to its present site in the Hoover Historic Site, was restored to its near original appearance.

President Hoover's father, Jesse, had been gifted with the ability to handle tools well. As a blacksmith, he did repair work on machines and specialized in fixing plows and horseshoeing. The replica of the old blacksmith shop houses an extensive collection of tools and other objects of the late 1800's.

Over 10,000 people a year visit the Hoover Library and Museum in West Branch. Exhibits, open to the general public, depict the career of Herbert Hoover and his 50 years of public service. Many unique and historic objects are displayed. Free admission to Scouts dressed in full uniform.
Hiking Trail
Length: 20 Miles  Hiking Time: 8-10 Hours

If your Troop is looking for a:
5 Mile Hike: From Point A (Cedar Valley Park) to Point B and back to Point A. Or, from Point C up river to Point A.
10 Mile Hike: From Point A up river and across the bridge and down river on East side to Point D.
20 Mile Hike: From Point A proceeding clockwise around the trail and back to Point A.

Briefing:
Your Unit will be briefed by a member of the Trail Committee at your campsite before you go out on trail. If any Scouts or Scouter wish to purchase patches, the briefer will have those also.
We recommend starting at Ivanhoe, camping at Cedar Valley and then continuing on to either Rochester or Moscow the second day. The Cedar Valley Park is located about 1/2 mile south of Cedar Valley Bridge on the west bank. Please contact us for information. Any part or all of the trail may be taken to qualify for the awards.

**Cedar Valley Park:**
Wood available, no cost for camping in Scout designated area. Charcoal grills, no digging, ground fires permitted in certain areas. All vehicles and campers in parking lot only. No camping in shelter house. Water and restrooms available. Contact the Cedar County Conservation Board (563-886-6930) to let them know you will be there.

**Emergency Telephone:** Cedar County Sheriff’s Office (563-886-2121) or 911

**Church Services:** Tipton, Rochester, Springdale, and West Branch

**SUGGESTIONS**
1. These trails are for persons in good physical condition only. We strongly recommend pre-conditioning and canoeing experience.
2. No one is permitted to begin the hiking trail after 10:00 a.m. We urge as early a start as is convenient.
3. Be absolutely certain you have enough water on both trails.
Requirements for Both Trails

1- Contact us in Advance (319-624-3298)
2- Recommended Camp Overnight in Designated Scout Camping area at Cedar Valley Park - Call the Cedar County Conservation Board (563-886-6930) to let them know you’ll be there - No Cost to Camp.
3- Provide Tour Permit from your local Council.
4- Registered Scout or Scouter.
5- Complete uniform (camp or Scout T-shirt acceptable).
6- Complete any portion of Trail.
7- Recommended touring of Hoover Historic Site in West Branch (No Cost).

QUALIFICATIONS

Any registered Scout or Scouter may hike or canoe the trail. All persons, except Scouters who don’t normally have uniforms, are requested to wear uniforms while on the trail. Official camp or Scout “T” shirts may be worn in warm weather.

SCOUT CONDUCT

Most of our trail crosses private property. Therefore, extreme caution must be taken to prevent damage to any private property which is being crossed. Just one wrong act could very well close the trail.

Hikers are to extend highway courtesies and may not accept rides or take short cuts across fields, etc. Hikers must travel in units.

Should any of the trail rules be violated the presentation of the patch and medal will be withheld.

RECOMMENDED HIKING EQUIPMENT

EACH SCOUT:
Canteen of water - There is no water available on the trail.
Lunch
Long pants are recommended.
Good hiking shoes.
Belt (to use at Cable Bridge crossings)

EACH UNIT:
First Aid Kit
Snake Bite Kit

Other Contacts:
Cedar Valley Stables
563-886-3752
They offer wonderful horse rides for groups on their property that our trail passes through - we have brochures if interested.

Hoover Park Hours
Mon. - Sun. 8 - 5 p.m.
TRAIL AWARD FEES

Original Trail Patch ($3.00)
Eligible when hiking any portion of trail
Canoe Patch ($3.00)
Eligible when canoeing any portion of river
Repeat Patch ($3.00)
Eligible only to those who have been on trail before
Camp Patch ($3.00)
Eligible to those camping overnight
Rain Patch ($3.00)
If it rains while on trail
Sun Patch ($3.00)
If it is over 90 degrees while on trail
Jacket Patch ($4.00)
Eligible when hiking or canoeing any portion of trail
Ultimate Challenge Patch ($3.00)
Canoe all 41 miles on Brochure and hike all 20 miles of trail all in one trip
Trail Medal ($4.00)
Eligible when Hiking or Canoeing
Hat Pins ($2.00)
Eligible when Hiking or Canoeing

Contact Information:
319-624-3298
Hoover Scout Trail Committee
P.O. Box 275
West Branch, Iowa 52358